

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – May 20, 2020

NHSCA's Online Zoom Meeting Space

Arts Councilors Present

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks, Vivian Beer, Angela Brown, Sara Germain, R.P. Hale, Margaret Jacobs, José Lezcano, Mary McLaughlin, Tim Sink, William Stelling, Catherine Sununu, Jason Tors, Cecilia Ulibarri, and Leah Woods

Staff Present

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) Commissioner Sarah Stewart; DNCR Arts Division: Ginnie Lupi, Director; Cassandra Mason, Chief Grants Officer (CGO); Carey Johnson, Curatorial Specialist (CS); Kayla Schweitzer, Heritage and Traditional Arts Coordinator (HTA); Lisa Burk-McCoy, Creative Communities & Arts in Health Coordinator (CC/AH); and Emily Killinger, Visual Arts Associate (VAA)

Motions (carried)

- Accept the minutes of January 15, 2020 Council meeting
- Approve Artist Emergency Grant recommendations (\$50,000)
- Approve NH CARES Act (Round 1) grant awards (\$300,000)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dr. Roger Brooks called the meeting of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts to order at 10:04 a.m. on May 20, 2020.

II. MINUTES

Chair Brooks called for a motion to accept the minutes from the January 15, 2020, meeting. Councilor Cathy Sununu moved to approve, seconded by Councilor William (Bill) Stelling. The minutes from January 15, 2020 were approved, with one abstention from Councilor Angela Brown as she was not in attendance at the January convening.

III. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

DNCR Commissioner Sarah Stewart reported that she was attending our meeting on her phone while she was also attending the NH Governor & Executive Council meeting via her computer. She expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the NHSCA's staff for maneuvering these uncharted times, and working to guide and inform artists and organizations across the state. She has been working with Governor Sununu and his taskforce for the state's re-opening efforts through the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR). Chairman Brooks echoed the Commissioner's kudos to the NHSCA staff and all they are doing to keep things going and being there to support the citizens of NH.

IV. STAFF REPORTS

Director Lupi spoke of the work the staff has been doing to go above and beyond during this unprecedented time. She said that the staff's work load has essentially tripled due to the emergency funding given to NHSCA to disburse through the state. The regular FY21 grant cycle is still rolling along and in motion, with Arts Education grants currently being reviewed by a panel of field experts, and Arts in Health grants soon to follow in the same process. Dir. Lupi has been working with Senator Shannon Chandley (District 11) on the NH Economic Reopening Task Force identifying four arts sub-groups (Performing Arts, Museums and Galleries, Community-Based Arts Education and Festivals and Fairs) for focus. Lupi shared a [document she wrote for the Reopening Task Force](#) which was used as a framework to introduce the reach of the arts sector. Lupi went on to mention NHSCA received a total \$427,000 in CARES Act funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), which was explained in detail via an email to the Council yesterday.

V. APPROVAL OF ARTIST EMERGENCY GRANTS (\$50,000)

NHSCA staff received and reviewed 135 grant applications. The recommendation from the panel was to approve the top 100 applications, for a total of \$50,000. The process for review of these grants looked at clarity and merit, completion and documentation, and artistic excellence, while taking into consideration an equitable distribution via geographic (county) distribution, with some weight also given to NHSCA’s Roster artists and underserved artistic disciplines. It was also noted that there were approximately 60-65 applications in draft form at the close of the application period, for which all applicants were notified of the approaching deadline via email.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the Artist Entrepreneurial Grant recommendations. There was some discussion about geographic distribution of awards, and the Council approved funding.

- Moved: Councilor Mary McLaughlin
- Second: Councilor Tim Sink
- Nays: None
- Abstentions: Margaret Jacobs and Vivian Beer (2)

VI. APPROVAL OF NH CARES GRANTS – ROUND 1 (\$300,000)

As part of the Federal CARES Act NHSCA received \$427,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts to distribute to nonprofit arts organizations impacted by COVID-19. Round 1 of this funding will be granted in the award amount of \$7,500 to nonprofit New Hampshire arts organizations that have received Public Value Partnership (operating) support from the Arts Council in the past four years (FY17 – FY20). It is noted that organizations receiving direct CARES Act funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities or New Hampshire Humanities will not be eligible for this Arts Council funding. Eligible organizations have been notified by email.

Chair Brooks called for a motion to approve the NH CARES GRANT – ROUND 1 funding. There was no discussion and the Council unanimously approved.

- Moved: Councilor R.P. Hale
- Second: Councilor Bill Stelling
- Nays: None
- Recusals: None

VII. COUNCILOR ROUND ROBIN

Councilors reported on a wide variety of recent and upcoming arts activities that are all being done remotely and as creatively as possible. Director Lupi wrapped up the Round Robin with a note that several arts organizations have been live streaming, moving lessons and classes online, as well as sharing pre-recorded concerts, not to mention many other creative ways to continue engaging the public, and she encouraged the Council to seek out such happenings via the internet and social media.

VIII. ADJOURN

- Motion to adjourn from the business meeting:
Councilor R.P. Hale
- Second: Councilor Bill Stelling
- Nays: None
- Recusals: None

Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

(Remaining) 2020 Council Meeting Dates (start time will be 9:30 AM, unless otherwise indicated):

- Monday, July 13 – location TBD
- Wednesday, September 16 – location TBD
- Monday, November 16 – location TBD